

I JUST GOT HIT BY A CAR.... THAT WAS AWESOME!!!!




POST SECONDARY EDUCATION
A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE
BY TOM & GALE FRANK

WHERE IT ALL STARTED

The Early Days

This all started the day he was born.
This was an adventure that would prove trying at times but in the long run very rewarding.

Bath Time....Fill the Tub...Empty the Tub...Fill the Tub
Eye Surgeries, Rages, multiple day care centers.



You've all been there.

IN THE BEGINNING.....

Kindergarten was a breeze.

1st Grade was a learning experience. Travis ran off campus and kept the administrators on their toes. No educational progress 1st semester. 2nd Semester he spent the afternoons back in kindergarten where the pace was slower.

3rd Grade - Reluctantly and at the suggestion of a well know ADHD psychologist Travis started taking Adderall in the Spring. The change was remarkable. He finally started to learn.

4th Grade he was tested and had fallen so far behind that he was qualified for "Resource" classes.

AND THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

Resource was not helping. He was bored and unchallenged.

Testing below grade level, IEP's requiring 75% accuracy, private tutors, and uncooperative teachers. Until neuropsychological testing he was lost and we were too.

Revelation! We're Dyslexic, ADHD, ODD, with interests far beyond current capabilities.

Called a meeting and were told "Oh, if he is as you claim it's a very mild case of dyslexia!"



THE PLAN OR THE ATTEMPT....

Since we already had his IEP we tried to call another meeting of the "team" and were met with a resounding "NO, you already had your meeting.

For Sale – One slightly used school district. Brokered by a Special Ed teacher who violated our rights to another meeting to present new findings.

Mainstreaming and Testing on Grade Level was another request me made that infuriated this teacher. Little did she know the district had recently made a change to policy that were the same as our request.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The resource teachers thought Travis was way too smart for their classes. They suggested mainstreaming him for all classes. We agreed.

Bullying, teasing, and other social issues are right at the top of the list in middle school.

He made it through and had actually caught up a bit. But...

Around the corner was the scariest thought.....

HIGH SCHOOL

We were a mess all while he was making giant strides in befriending football players who needed math tutoring, going to football games, getting into track and field, and learning to self advocate his needs.

GETTING INFORMED AND INVOLVED

This is where the real knowledge of transition and what it meant to Travis and to us. Tom and Gale were invited to join the Transition Team for our district. They attended local meetings and training sessions sponsored by the Dept. of Education.

GETTING READY TO MOVE ON

At his 10th Grade IEP meeting we were greeted by Travis with the news that he would be running the show. He introduced everyone in attendance and help write his IEP.

That Spring Travis was invited to give a presentation on Student Lead IEP's at a Dept. of Education Transition Training in Phoenix, Az.

11th Grade Travis started preparations to continue on to post secondary education.

WHAT CHANGES

EVERYTHING!

The services they receive in K-12 is Different than what they will receive in post secondary education.

COLLEGES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE ANY SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES. THEY ONLY NEED TO PROVIDE ACCESS ACCORDING TO ADA REGULATIONS.

Many colleges provide good support for free and some charge a premium price for their services. Beware: DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

THEY'RE EIGHTEEN!

You now CONTROL NOTHING
But there are some things that you can do.

Talk to your student and Stay informed

Explain what's ahead for them. The huge difference from high school to college.

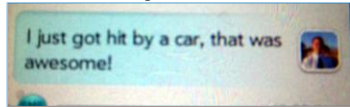
Meet the College, especially Disabled Student Services. Know what services are available. It may be different for each school you look at.

Signed releases, HIPPA (get from Dr.), Power of Attorney, Release of Information from the school.

Your student may decide not to give you access to records. That's ok as long as you have a good line of communication with them.

Dropping them off at college, the next chapter.

And some of the messages we received.....



Mom, I'm failing all my classes.

The English professor told to drop his class. He took 10 points off just because I didn't listen to him and see the tutors.....

Dad, I missed the last bus back to campus. I guess I didn't read the new schedule. Should I walk?

We got that Sinking feeling





What can you do? LOTS!



Don't let anyone tell you they will sink or swim. They have relied on us all through their school years.

Throw them a life ring!

Contact the Disabled Student Services Office.
Even if they can't disclose information to you they will listen to what you have to say.

Talk to your student more often and ASK what's going on.
Don't wait for them to volunteer information,

We're not saying take control away from them.
We are saying to stay involved and in touch.

NOW WHAT TO DO

Relax, Cry, Relax, Cry some more, bite your nails, pace.....

The available resources has grown in the last few years.

Resources we have found useful:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/specialprojects/Transition/>

<http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/specialprojects/Transition/Age-of-MajorityBrochure.pdf>

<http://www.mstc.edu/highschooltransition.htm>

Your student's hard work and diligence will hopefully be rewarded like ours was.....A letter telling him he made the Dean's List.



June 20, 2011

Travis Frank
1201 E. Iron St.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Dear Travis,

We want to extend to you on behalf of the faculty and staff of Central Arizona College our congratulations on your academic achievement during the spring semester. Your academic achievement has earned you the honor of being on the College's Honor's List. We take pride in recognizing your academic achievement.

We commend your academic success and wish you the very best for continued future success.

Sincerely,

Dean of Arts and Social Sciences

Dean of Education, Mathematics and Learning Support

Dean of Health Careers and Sciences

George White
Dean of Professional and Technical Education

Central Arizona College
1201 E. Iron St., Tucson, AZ 85719
(520) 623-1000

Gale and Tom Frank are the Parents of Travis. Travis was diagnosed with ADHD, ODD, and Dyslexia when he was in elementary school. They reside in Tucson, Arizona and run a software company there.

Travis is currently enrolled at Central Arizona College in Coolidge, AZ. He is majoring in Athletic Training and hopes to move on the NAU next Fall.